

****Greetings from the Office of Leadership and School Improvement!*



KDE-mail

SBDM Council News

August 22, 2005

Welcome!

Division Director's Notes...

Welcome to a new and exciting school year, bringing another opportunity to impact the lives of all 653,248 children enrolled in the schools in our Commonwealth. In this Division, we strongly believe that the work you do this year with school councils in your district will have impact on students for years to come. Your role as SBDM coordinator is critical to the success of the councils in your schools, and we want to be a resource and support for you.

The task before us is very clear: we must close achievement gaps and increase student achievement. No matter where your schools are and what your test scores now, more can be done. There is plenty of work for everyone. As we go through the next year, I want to challenge all of us by asking you to invite your council members and other colleagues to begin thinking about the following questions: How can we, as a professional learning community, focus our efforts to close the achievement gaps in our schools? How can we work together to build high quality leadership in our schools? By working together on these issues, we can effect and improve student achievement.

I am honored to be in your service as the new division director for Leadership and Instructional Support. Please don't hesitate to contact me with ideas and suggestions about how we can best serve you as SBDM coordinators for your school districts. Orin.Simmerman@education.ky.gov or 502-564-4201.

Council Development & Planning Staff

Our New Division Director: Orin Simmerman



@ KDE:

Orin.Simmerman@education.ky.gov

Cheri.Meadows@education.ky.gov

Judith.Littleton@education.ky.gov

Erin.McGee@education.ky.gov

Orin comes to the Division of Leadership and Instructional Support as a former teacher, principal, and superintendent.

Branch Manager: Cheri Meadows

Cheri Meadows has been with the Council Development and Planning Branch for 15 years. She can be contacted on school-based decision making issues including consultation, principal selection, and school closing or consolidation.

Consultant: Judith Littleton

Judy has served KDE for one year, after 19 years in the classroom and higher education. She serves school districts and schools in areas including school budgets or allocations, parent or teacher elections, SBDM complaints, legal questions about councils, and training for SBDM councils.

Consultant: Erin McGee

Erin has recently joined the Council Development and Planning Branch after seven years in the classroom. She serves school districts and schools in the area of school-based decision making councils, including school or district improvement planning, parent or teacher elections, SBDM complaints, and legal questions about councils.

SBDM District Leaders Workshop

A Message from Commissioner Wilhoit

As you know, the work of district staff is critical to establishing and maintaining a successful learning environment at all schools. Districts that are working directly with school councils to provide support and assistance are experiencing a good measure of success. School districts have the potential to impact student achievement by working with their schools to develop policies and improvement plans to focus on student achievement and close achievement gaps.

To further our mutual goals, I have information about a new training opportunity offered by the Kentucky Association for School Councils (KASC) that will enable district staff to learn more about the new standards used in SBDM training and how school district staff can share in that work to support council members. To facilitate your participation, there will be no cost for registration, and EILA credit will be available for all administrators who attend.

The school districts participating in the State Action for Education Leadership (SAELP) grant project (Boyle, Graves, Jefferson, Jessamine, Pike and Warren) will host this training

To reach KASC for registration purposes:
www.kasc.net or
859-238-2188

for school district staff. Registration and all other information about the sessions will be available through the Kentucky Association of School Councils by phone at 859-238-2188. Registration can be faxed in using the registration form from the brochure. We encourage early registration, as only 40 participants will be registered for each session.

The following is a list of session dates and locations for the upcoming training:

- ◆ Jessamine County Board of Education - September 8, 9am- 4pm ET
- ◆ Boyle County - First Christian Church, Danville - September 7, 9am-4pm ET
- ◆ Warren County Board of Education - September 7, 9am- 4pm, CT
- ◆ Graves County Board of Education - September 8, 9am-4pm, CT
- ◆ Jefferson County- Gheens Academy - September 7, 9am-4pm, ET
- ◆ Pike County Board of Education - September 9, 9am-4pm, ET

If you would like a copy of the Proficiency Keys or a brochure describing the session in more detail, please contact KASC. I hope that you will accept our invitation to attend. District staff are key partners in our efforts to improve student achievement and close the gaps. Strong relationships between school councils and school districts are essential to student success. Please review this information and consider sending a district representative to this training.

Trainer's Network

A process to provide a standardized SBDM Trainer's Network and training materials has been established for the 2005-2006 school year. This past spring, more than 120 trainers completed the application process and the necessary training to become endorsed SBDM trainers. Each of these trainers will be delivering the new SBDM curriculum developed in conjunction with the Kentucky Association for School Councils (KASC).

Each new council member is required, by statute, to complete six hours of training while each experienced member must complete three hours. All new members must complete the six-hour Introduction to SBDM training session, but experienced members have a choice of four three-hour sessions: Research, Instruction, and Action, Planning for

Interested in having a district representative trained to present SBDM?

www.kasc.net
training@kasc.net or
Judith.Littleton@education.ky.gov
or 502-564-4201

Achievement, Teamwork for Results, or Council Work and School Culture.

We will begin training new trainers again in Spring 2006. Information about the SBDM Trainer's Network or any of the training sessions can be located at www.kasc.net or by contacting KASC at training@kasc.net. Judy Littleton is the KDE contact for the Trainer's Network. She can be reached at Judith.Littleton@education.ky.gov or 502-564-4201.

Council Membership & Training Verification

School districts are required to submit required training verification for each SBDM council member by posting the council information by school on their district's website. This posting process fulfills the requirement in KRS 160.345 for annual verification of required SBDM council member training by superintendents.

The deadline for posting 2005-2006 council member information to your district website is November 1. We have added a document to our webpage that we hope will be most helpful in completing this task. The new form that is provided for this purpose includes council member names, addresses, trainer's name, and a check-off to indicate whether or not the SBDM member has received the required training for their current term of office. The template for posting council information is available for download in Word and HTM.

If you have questions or need assistance with council membership and training verification, please contact Erin McGee at Erin.McGee@education.ky.gov or 502-564-4201.

Resources for Council Policies on Wellness

A number of resources for districts and schools to guide implementation of the law are provided on the KDE website. These resources include a CD-ROM that can be obtained through the Districts Food Service Director or to download on the Departments Website at:

<https://kyeascn1.state.ky.us/nutrition/default.asp>

Additional resources can also be found on the Departments Coordinated School Health Web-page:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/School+Health/default.htm?IMAGE=Search> . This page will

be updated as additional resources are reviewed.

For additional information please feel to contact staff at the Division of Nutrition and Health Services at

Where to find the council posting information & document:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/School+Based+Decision+Making/Training/SBDM+Membership+Data+Submission.htm>

Have questions about posting?

Contact Erin McGee at Erin.McGee@education.ky.gov or 502-564-4201

How to contact the Division of Nutrition and Health Services:

Barbara Donica—
Barbara.Donica@education.ky.gov
or 502-564-2706

Barbara.Donica@education.ky.gov or 502-564-2706.

Upcoming Events

→ SBDM District Leaders Workshops: September 7-9
Various Locations: see Commissioner Wilhoit's invitation

→ KASC Conference: September 12-13
Executive West Hotel, Louisville

Quotation of the Month

A positive learning climate in a school for young children is a composite of many things. It is an attitude that respects children. It is a place where children receive guidance and encouragement from the responsible adults around them. It is an environment where children can experiment and try out new ideas without fear of failure. It is an atmosphere that builds children's self-confidence so they dare to take risks. It is an environment that nurtures a love of learning.

ATtribution: Carol B. Hillman (20th century), U.S. early childhood educator. Creating a Learning Climate for the Early Childhood Years, Fastback Series (1989).

